

### **REMARKS**

Claims 9-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled. Claims 10-13 have been added. Claims 9 and 13 are in independent form.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103**

2-3. Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over France Patent 2,760,035 to Gilles ("the '035 reference") in view of United States Patent 1,652,953 to Patterson ("the '953 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The '035 reference discloses a vehicle door lock 9 that is placed in a base 5 of a wing mirror 1 mounted on a front door. The wing mirror 1 is provided with hinges 7,8 enabling it to pass from a driving position to a parking position, the lock 9 being hidden in both positions. The wing mirror base 5 is provided with a joining piece 16 on the door which has a cylindrical bore 19 for receiving and holding the lock 9. The lock 9 controls a door bolt by means of a cable 20. The wing mirror 1 is folded forwardly to an access position to provide access to the lock 9.

The '953 reference discloses a control and locking mechanism including a main housing section 14 of cylindrical form having a closed end 15 provided with a seat 16 in its central portion for receiving and rotatably supporting the end of a locking cylinder 13. This end wall 15 is also formed with rod recesses 17 for receiving the ends of locking rods 18 slidably mounted in an axial plane in the locking cylinder 13. A bearing plate 19 is mounted in the forward end of the housing 14 and provided with a cylindrical bearing portion 20 receiving and mounting the locking cylinder 13 therein.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2 and 4-8. Claim 9 claims a door including a supporting framework including an inner side, an opposite outer side, and a through opening between the inner and outer sides; a supporting element fixedly secured to the outer side of the door, the supporting element including a cylindrical sleeve defining a seat; a rear-view mirror secured to the supporting element; an attachment element fixedly connected to the supporting framework between the supporting element and the through opening; a lock for blocking the

door in a closing position; and a key assembly operatively connected to the lock and selectively actuated for disabling/enabling opening of the lock from outside the motor vehicle, the key assembly including a casing having a peripheral flange fixed to a face of the attachment element on a side of the attachment element facing towards the inner side of the door and the key assembly is covered towards the outer side of the door by the supporting element and is accessible from outside the motor vehicle through the seat, wherein the cylindrical sleeve of the supporting element abuts the casing.

**The '035 reference does not disclose a door including the limitation of a supporting element having a cylindrical sleeve, wherein the cylindrical sleeve abuts a casing of a key assembly, as specifically required by claim 9 of the above-captioned application.** The Examiner states that a supporting means 11 and a barrel 12 in the '035 reference are equivalent to the supporting element (16) and the casing (35), respectively, in the above-captioned application. In the '035 reference, the lock 9, which is housed in the barrel 12, is accessible through the supporting means 11. The supporting means 11, however, does not include a cylindrical sleeve. Further, the supporting means 11 does not include a cylindrical sleeve that abuts the barrel 12. Therefore, each and every limitation in claim 9 of the above-captioned application has not been found either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference and, as such, claim 9 is allowable.

The purpose of the cylindrical sleeve (52) is to recess the key assembly (21) within the door (1). Further, the cylindrical sleeve (52) abuts the casing (35) of the key assembly (21) to prevent access to the casing (35). In the '035 reference, the lock 9 and barrel 12 are flush to the outer surface of the supporting means 11 and access to the barrel 12, with a screwdriver for example, is not restricted.

Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 10-12 are allowable.

Additionally, claim 10 includes the limitation "said key assembly is accessible from outside the motor vehicle without moving said rear-view mirror from a use position." **The '035 reference does not disclose a door including the limitation of a key assembly that is accessible from outside a motor vehicle without moving a rear-view mirror from a use position, as specifically required by claim 10 of the above-captioned application.** In the '035 reference, the wing mirror 1 is folded forwardly to an access position to provide access to the lock 9.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '035 reference in view of the '953 reference be withdrawn.

Applicant has added new independent claim 13. Claim 13 claims a door including a supporting framework including an inner side, an opposite outer side, and a through opening located between the inner and outer sides; a supporting element fixedly secured to the outer side of the door, the supporting element including a cylindrical sleeve defining a seat, the cylindrical sleeve extending through the outer side of the door toward the inner side thereof; a rear-view mirror secured to the supporting element; an attachment element fixedly connected to the supporting framework and disposed between the supporting element and the through opening, the attachment element having a through hole; a lock for blocking the door in a closing position; and a key assembly operatively connected to the lock and selectively actuated for disabling/enabling opening of the lock from outside the motor vehicle, the key assembly including a casing and a key unit, the casing having a peripheral flange fixed to a face of the attachment element on a side of the attachment element facing towards the inner side of the door to prevent rotation of the casing, the key unit housed within the casing and displaceable with respect to the casing, wherein the casing and the key unit are set apart from the outer side of the door and the key assembly is covered towards the outer side of the door by the supporting element and is accessible from outside the motor vehicle through the seat without moving the rear-view mirror from a use position, and wherein the cylindrical sleeve of the supporting element extends into the through hole of the attachment element and abuts an end of the casing directly adjacent the peripheral flange.

The cited references do not disclose a door on a motor vehicle including a supporting element fixedly secured to an outer side of the door having a cylindrical sleeve that extends through the outer side of the door toward an inner side of the door. In the '035 reference, the supporting means 11, which the Examiner contends is equivalent to the supporting element (16) in the above-captioned application, does not have a cylindrical sleeve that extends through an outer side of the door.

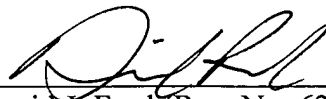
Further, the cited references do not disclose a rear-view mirror that is secured to a supporting element and a key assembly that is accessible from outside a motor vehicle without moving the rear view mirror from a use position. In the '035 reference, the wing mirror 1 is folded forwardly to an access position to provide access to the lock 9.

Further still, the cited references do not disclose that a key assembly includes a casing with a peripheral flange fixed to a face of an attachment element, wherein the attachment element has a through hole and a cylindrical sleeve of a supporting element extends into the through hole and abuts an end of the casing directly adjacent the peripheral flange. Since the supporting means 11 does not have a cylindrical sleeve that extends through an outer side of the door, as set forth above, it follows that the '035 reference does not disclose a cylindrical sleeve that extends into a through hole in an attachment element.

Therefore, claim 13 is neither taught nor disclosed by the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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